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CLO 17 APR 1978

OLC #78-1625
13 April 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: House Appropriations Committee Hearing on
Intelligence-Related Activities Budget for FY 1979

25X1 1. ☐ On 13 April 1978, the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee held a hearing on the intelligence-related activities (IRA) budget for FY 1979. The principal witness was Gerald P. Dinneen, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Communications, Command, Control and Intelligence). Other witnesses were as set forth in the attachment. 25X1

☐ This hearing took both morning and afternoon sessions; however, because it was interrupted at noon, and the room was used for other Committee purposes, ☐ was undertaken at 1:30 p.m. The afternoon session ended at 4:15 p.m. The level of the briefing was codeword. 25X1

25X1 2. ☐ Members present during all or part of the hearing were:

George H. Mahon (D., Texas), Chairman

Joseph P. Addabbo (D., N.Y.)
Bill D. Burlison (D., Mo.)
John J. Flynt (D., Ga.)

Jack Edwards (R., Ala.)
J. Kenneth Robinson (R., Va.)
Jack F. Kemp (R., N.Y.)
Elford A. Cederberg (ex officio)

25X1 3. ☐ Staff present during the hearing were:

Ralph Preston
Charles Snodgrass
Peter Murphy
Gordon Casey

25X1 4. ☐ Mr. Edwards asked what was the Administration's policy with regard to responding to an nuclear attack. Admiral Murphy responded saying the policy was a matter for the President. Mr. Edwards said he had tried for years to get an answer to this question and never seemed to get one that was satisfactory.

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25X1 5. ☐ Mr. Dinneen stated that Executive Order 12036 does not alter the Secretary of Defense's responsibilities for IRA. He also mentioned that the systems that make up the IRA budget must go through continual redevelopment and he envisioned that there would be times when some of the assets would be classified in some other way and that new assets would move into this category.

25X1 6. ☐ During his formal presentation, General Scott, of the Air Force, put up a chart indicating that the BACKFIRE bomber had the capability for overflying the U.S. Mr. Kemp then asked whether the BACKFIRE bomber was or was not a strategic threat, indicating that Admiral Turner had said that it was not. A long discussion followed concerning the capabilities of the BACKFIRE bomber which terminated with Admiral Murphy saying that he would review the Director's comments and provide an Administration position for the record. Chairman Mahon commented that the bomber was not designed as an intercontinental bomber but appeared to be capable of being used in that fashion for desperate action. The discussion of this item was quite lengthy.

25X1 7. ☐ During the afternoon session, all three service witnesses were subjected to considerable questioning regarding the multiplicity of IRA systems and their programs.

Office of Legislative Counsel

25X1

Attachment

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OLC/ELS/mg (2 May 78)

25X1

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